CLAIMS

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A vehicle hood assembly comprising:

a hood panel including a central portion and opposing lateral portions, each of said lateral portions having a lateral edge;

a pair of fender panels, said fender panels each including an edge, said fender panels each attached to one of said opposing lateral portions of said hood panel such that said edge of said fender panel is fixedly secured to said central portion of said hood panel at a first attachment point, and said lateral edge of said hood panel is fixedly secured to said fender panel inward of said edge of said fender panel at a second attachment point, creating an enclosed chamber between said hood panel and said fender panel in between said first attachment point and said second attachment point.

2. (Original) The vehicle hood assembly of claim 1, wherein said fender panels are L-shaped between said first and second attachment points.

3. (Original) The vehicle hood assembly of claim 2, wherein said chamber between said L-shaped sections of said fender panels and said lateral portions of said hood panel forms an air channel.

4. (Original) The vehicle hood assembly of claim 3, wherein said chamber has a generally box-shaped cross section.

5. (Original) The vehicle hood assembly of claim 4, wherein said L-shaped section of said fender panel includes at least one step.

6. (Original) The vehicle hood assembly of claim 5, wherein said hood panel and said fender panels are plastic.

7. (Original) The vehicle hood assembly of claim 6, wherein at least one of said first and second attachment points comprises a flange engaging a hook tab.

8. (Original) The vehicle hood assembly of claim 6, wherein at least one of said first and second attachment points comprises a nut and bolt.

9. (Previously Presented) A vehicle hood assembly comprising:

a thermoplastic hood panel including a central portion and a pair of opposing sidewalls extending downwardly from said central portion;

a pair of thermoplastic fender panels extending downwardly from said opposing sidewalls, said fender panels each fixedly attached to said hood panel at a first attachment location in said central portion, and a second attachment location in said side wall, said hood panel and each of said fender panels defining an enclosed chamber between said first and second attachment locations.

10. (Original) The vehicle hood assembly of claim 9, wherein said fender panel includes at least one step between said first and second attachment locations.

11. (Original) The vehicle hood assembly of claim 10, wherein said chamber has a generally box-shaped cross section.

12. (Original) The vehicle hood assembly of claim 11, wherein said fender panel is L-shaped between said first and second attachment locations.

13. (Original) The vehicle hood assembly of claim 12, wherein said chamber forms an air channel.

14. (Previously Presented) A method for manufacturing a vehicle hood comprising:

injection molding a hood panel having a central portion and downwardly extending lateral portions;

injection molding a pair of fender panels, each fender panel having a first, L-shaped section adapted to attach to said hood panel and a second section extending from said first section; and

attaching said fender panels to opposing sides of said hood panel at a first location in said central portion, and a second location in said lateral portion, said fender panels fixedly secured to said hood panel at said first location and said second location, forming an enclosed chamber between said hood panel and said fender panel between said first and second locations.

15. (Previously Presented) The vehicle hood assembly of claim 9 wherein said sidewalls have an arcuate shape.